

Michigan History Day® – Special Awards

Best Entry in Michigan History, sponsored by Meijer, Inc.

A \$100 special award will be presented to projects in the Youth, Junior, and Senior levels for the best entry pertaining to Michigan History.

Meijer first opened during the Great Depression when Hendrik Meijer, and his 14-year-old son, Fred, fulfilled a need in the community. With a focus on customer experience and respect for team members, they evolved the small grocery store into a one-stop shopping experience – the nation’s first supercenter.

Best Entry in Use of Primary Sources, sponsored by the Michigan Archival Association Michigan Archival Association

A \$100 special award will be presented to projects in the Youth, Junior, and Senior levels for the best entry in the use of primary sources. A primary source is an artifact, a document, a recording, or other source of information that was created at the time under study. It serves as an original source of information about the topic.

The Michigan Archival Association was founded in 1958 by special collections librarians, university archivists, state records administrators, and historical society members. The MAA plays a major role in educating practicing archivists, allied professionals, and the general public through training workshops, publications, annual meetings, and its newsletter, Open Entry.

Best Entry in Use of Family History, sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council

A \$50 special award will be presented to projects in the Youth, Junior, and Senior levels for the best entry in the use of family history. Family histories and genealogies help historians understand not just where and when people lived, but also their lifestyles, biographies, and motivations, and how these factors influenced the course of history.

The Michigan Genealogical Council was founded in 1972. It promotes genealogical activities of statewide interest through the preservation and publication of Michigan records, programs and events, and the encouragement of improvements in genealogical facilities and holdings of Michigan archives, libraries, museums, and record repositories.

Best Entry in Use of Newspapers, sponsored by the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University

A \$100 special award will be presented to projects in the Youth, Junior, and Senior levels for the best entry in the use of newspapers. Newspapers are a key primary source for historical research, and have been described as “the diary of a community.” This special award recognizes projects that have used newspapers as an important source of information in documenting history.

The Clarke Historical Library originated in 1954 when Dr. Norman E. Clark, Sr., donated his collection of historical books and other material to his alma mater, Central Michigan College. The library named in his honor continues to collect both the rare and commonplace, to document the people of Michigan and the Old Northwest territory.

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James Campbell Award for Best Use of Oral History, sponsored by the Michigan Oral History Association

A \$100 special award will be presented to projects in the Youth, Junior, and Senior levels for the best entry in the use of oral history. The Michigan Oral History Association is dedicated to the preservation of Michigan voices and memories. This award is in memory of James Campbell, an outstanding historian and educator who dedicated his career to chronicling Michiganders' perspectives as the President of MOHA and as a Professor at University of Michigan, Flint.

Best Entry in Naval or Maritime History, sponsored by the Continental Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States.

A \$100 special award will be presented to projects in the Youth, Junior, and Senior levels for the best entry in Naval or Maritime History. Preference to Naval History will be given during consideration of the award, but all entries relating to maritime history will be considered. Relevant areas of study include the United States Navy and naval forces around the world; the U.S. Coast Guard; and lighthouses, ships, and sailors on the world's oceans and on the Great Lakes.

The Naval Order of the United States was established in 1890 as a hereditary organization for members of the American sea services. Its primary mission is to encourage research and writing on naval and maritime subjects and preserve documents, portraits, and other records of prominent figures, deeds, and memories of American naval and maritime history.

The Sam Breck Award for Best Entry in Railroad History, sponsored by the Michigan Railroad History Conference (\$100, one award)

A single \$100 special award will be presented to a project in the Youth, Junior, or Senior level for the best entry in railroad history. Facets of railroad history include studies of railroad companies; locomotives, rolling stock, and equipment; construction workers and train crews; and manufacturers.

The all-volunteer Michigan Railroad History Conference Board seeks to increase knowledge of Michigan's rich railroad and transportation heritage by holding biennial all day historical meetings featuring six to eight speakers with appropriate field trips in various cities across the state. The Sam Breck Award for the Best Entry in Railroad History honors an Ann Arbor writer, publisher, speaker, and photographer who for half a century promoted the preservation and study of Michigan railroads.

The Elly Peterson Award for Michigan Women's History, sponsored by Michigan Women Forward HERStory (Formally the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame)

A \$100 special award will be presented to projects in the Youth, Junior, and Senior levels for the best entry pertaining to Michigan women's history. Historians largely neglected the study of women's contributions to history until the advent of social and cultural history in the 1960s.

Established in 1983, the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame honors the achievements of remarkable Michigan women.

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The Best Entry in African-American History, sponsored by the Merze Tate Travel Writers

A \$100 special award will be presented to projects in the Youth, Junior, and Senior levels for the best entry in African-American History. Preference to achievements in the arts or music will be given during consideration of the award, but all entries relating to African-American history will be considered. The award's name honors Vernie Merze Tate of Blanchard, Michigan, one of the first African-American residents of Mecosta County.

Born in 1905, Merze Tate graduated from what is today Western Michigan University. She became a high school teacher and then a college professor at Barber-Scotia College, Bennett College, Morgan State College, and Howard University. She traveled the world as an international reporter for the *Baltimore Afro American* newspaper in Baltimore, and worked as a photographer, filmmaker, and researcher for the U.S. State Department.

Best Use of Economic History or Impact, sponsored by TCF Bank (New in 2021!)

A \$100 special award will be presented to projects in the Youth, Junior, and Senior levels for the best use of economic history or impact. Topics could include the Great Depression; impact of a business on an area (automobile factories in Detroit; lumber mills in Muskegon); cultural impact (the economic effects of a sports stadium or theater in a community); or inventions.

TCF Bank, headquartered in Detroit, offers consumer and commercial banking, trust and wealth management, and specialty leasing and lending products and services to consumers, small businesses, and commercial clients. TCF has approximately 475 banking centers primarily located in Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota with additional locations in Colorado, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.